

great scholarship, but by the best representatives of the colleges of our land. Such men have come forth under all circumstances to meet every foe and bravely defended the cause of Christ.

Just what new fangled heresy Satan is going to bring about in the next century is difficult to conjecture, but it is no doubt safe to predict that he is trying to accomplish some mighty achievements.

At any rate it is safe to conclude, as long as civilization advances, the church needs the most profound scholars to defend her cause.

The Brethren church especially occupies a very unique position in the Christian world. Primitive Christianity has become rather unpopular in these later days. The doctrine is very extensively taught, that it does not matter what you believe only so you are sincere, whether you believe in primitive Christianity or modern Christianity, whether you believe in evolution or revolution only so that the stream flows into the right channel.

But the Brethren church teaches no such doctrine. Her divine mission on earth is to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. To preach the truth as taught by Christ and practiced by his apostles and thus bring back the church to her ancient moorings.

It is generally conceded that if a man who is well acquainted with the doctrines of the various denominations were blindfolded and taken into different churches he could in a very short time tell definitely what church he is in, by the emphasis the preacher would give to a certain portion of God's word. But the intent and purpose of the Brethren church is to emphasize the whole truth and not any part thereof, to the exclusion of any other. All truth is equally sacred with God. And the language of Jesus to his disciples is, teaching them to observe *all things* whatsoever I have commanded you. Not one thing but *all things*—this then is the mission of the Brethren church, and Brethren preacher—the most important mission on earth. The question arises are we, Brethren preachers, able to fill the mission to which we have been ordained? Some may be, others may not be. As a rule, I suppose we are doing about as well as can be expected under the circumstances. But many of us have labored under great disadvantages from the fact that we have had neither a classical nor theological education, yet we were expected to be equally as proficient and successful in proclaiming the gospel as those who had, if not a little more so. Forgetting that others had spent years of toil in the best institutions of learning in our land in order to fully equip themselves for the work in which they were engaged. It is highly gratifying to note that as a

band of Christian workers the Brethren ministry compares favorably with those of other denominations, even with all our disadvantages under which we have been laboring. But what, my brethren, would have been the result had we had equal advantages with others. It humiliates me and at the same time thrills my very soul with the brightest anticipations to think that with equal advantages we would be to-day not up with, but at the head of this mighty procession of Christian ministers in our land.

Is it necessary for me to say, that we as a church need strong men to-day in our pulpits? No, this fact is apparent to you all and is conceded on every hand. Men of the very highest intellectual attainments are needed. Men versed in science and literature as well as in theology. Men who can defend the truth under all circumstances and conditions in life and preach our doctrine intelligently to the world. But we need not only men of the highest intelligence but men who are thoroughly indoctrinated in the faith of our beloved fraternity, and will preach the gospel as handed down by Christ to his apostles. But above all we need ministers with cultured hearts, men of character and stability. Oh! how we have suffered as a church from men who came to us in sheep's clothing but inwardly were ravening wolves. We gave them our very best churches and they kept them as long as they could, but now they have gone to fields of greater usefulness. But with profound gratitude may it be said that not one of our ministers who received his training and completed his education at Ashland College has left the church or in any way brought reproach upon the cause of Christ.

Mind culture, faith culture, and heart culture should and must go hand in hand in order that the Brethren ministry may be strong and the Brethren church may continue to prosper.

We need a college that will teach all these in the full and most complete sense of the term. The Brethren church is not in need of any dwarfed, lop-sided preachers who will ride their hobbies to death and their congregations too, but broad-minded, able, fearless men who are not too conscientious to preach the doctrine and faith of the church with which they are identified. We have room for fifty such preachers to-day as a church and could in a very short time find a place for each.

It is a lamentable fact that the numerical strength of the ministry of our church has not been growing nearly as rapidly as the demand. Many of our long established churches are to day without pastors and are anxiously waiting for some one to break to them the bread of life. At the same time many other doors are open to us, and from all

parts of the world comes the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us."

A strong ministry means a strong church, a weak ministry a weak church. What use is there in trying to establish more churches when we do not have a sufficient number of ministers to care for the churches we already have.

Never, in the history of our beloved brotherhood was there such a demand for men who could preach the gospel as now. We should have a score of young men entering the ministry every year. Then we could in a very short time double our numbers. But where are these young men to come from? Where are they to be educated and fully equipped for their important work?

Must we pick one up here and another there in a promiscuous way, without any preparation whatever? Shall we pursue the same course we have been pursuing, then in ten years from now neither the church nor our ministry will be much stronger than now.

Let us be wise. Let us not forget that Jesus himself established the precedent of a well trained ministry. The best divinity course that any class of men ever had were the disciples of Christ, who for three and one-half years sat at his feet drinking in wisdom from the very fountain of knowledge that they might be prepared for their arduous duties. And Jesus himself declared that Paul, the mighty logician, that colossal orator, philosopher and author, was a chosen vessel for a special purpose. The eloquent Apollos mighty in the scriptures thrilled his auditors with his wonderful oratorical powers. Yes, God needed such men in the first century and he had them. He needed a Christian university and he had one at that early day. He needed men in the second and third and fourth centuries and he had the greatest scholars of any age or country. And he needs them today. Christian universities, Christian colleges, Christian scholars.

History declares that during the dark ages, when the masses had become as ignorant and the savage, and even kings could not write their own names, the clergy were still noted for their intelligence. Scarcely a Christian denomination is endeavoring to enhance her cause without the aid of a college or university. And the larger churches have been multiplying these institutions at an enormous rate.

The M. E. church has forty-one colleges and universities. The Baptist church seventy-five academies, twenty-nine colleges and seven theological seminaries and most other churches compare favorably with these in proportion to their numbers.

Even the Mohammedans have their training school, and ten thousand young men go to Cairo every year to learn the